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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. No claims are amended hereby.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A sabot having a longitudinal axis, comprising:
a compression section defining a payload receiving chamber at a forward end of the sabot for receiving a slug therein, the compression section including a plurality of fins defined by a combination of alternating ridges on an interior and an exterior surface thereof, wherein the ridges are spaced from one another along the longitudinal axis; and
a solid section extending rearwardly from the compression section;
wherein the compression section is adapted to at least partially collapse along a direction of the longitudinal axis upon firing while remaining substantially intact to produce a volume change.
2. (original) The sabot of claim 1, wherein the compression section further includes a locking ring mounted within the payload receiving chamber for engaging the slug.
3. (currently amended) The sabot of claim 1, wherein the payload receiving chamber further includes a post extending from the solid section toward a forward portion of the sabot.
4. (currently amended) The sabot of claim 1, wherein the solid section includes a powder cup section formed opposite the compression section at a rear portion of the sabot.
5. (canceled)
6. (currently amended) The sabot of claim 33 [1], wherein the sabot comprises a high density polyethylene.

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7. (currently amended) The sabot of claim 1, wherein the sabot is axisymmetric about the longitudinal axis.

8. (currently amended) A firearm round having a longitudinal axis, comprising:
a sabot including a compression section defining a payload receiving chamber therein and a solid section connected to the compression section, said compression section including a plurality of alternating ridges on an interior and an exterior surface thereof, wherein the ridges are spaced from one another along the longitudinal axis; and

a slug received ~~and fitted~~ within the payload receiving chamber of the sabot;

wherein the compression section is adapted to at least partially collapse along a direction of the longitudinal axis upon firing to produce a volume change.

9. (currently amended) The firearm round of claim 8, wherein the slug comprises a nose, a driving band adjacent the nose and a stem connected to the driving band, and wherein the driving band is adapted to engage rifling of a barrel of a rifled firearm.

10. (original) The firearm round of claim 9, wherein the nose of the slug includes a nose cavity.

11. (original) The firearm round of claim 9, wherein the stem of the slug includes a post cavity.

12. (original) The firearm round of claim 11, wherein the payload receiving chamber of the sabot includes a post fitted within the post cavity of the slug.

13. (currently amended) The firearm round of claim 9, wherein the driving band includes a length less than about 25% of the an overall diameter of the firearm round.

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14. (original) The firearm round of claim 9, wherein the stem has a diameter less than a diameter of the driving band.

15. (original) The firearm round of claim 8, wherein the slug comprises at least about 95% by weight lead.

16. (original) The firearm round of claim 15, wherein the slug further comprises antimony.

17. (original) The firearm round of claim 8, wherein the slug is plated or jacketed.

18. (currently amended) The firearm round of claim 40 [8], wherein the sabot comprises a high density polyethylene.

19. (original) The firearm round of claim 8, wherein the compression section of the sabot further comprises a locking ring mounted within the payload receiving chamber so as to engage the slug.

20. (original) The firearm round of claim 8, wherein the solid section of the sabot includes a powder cup.

21. (canceled)

22. (currently amended) A sabot having a longitudinal axis, comprising:
a compression section defining a payload receiving chamber therein, said compression section including a plurality of fins defined by a combination of alternating internal and external ridges on an interior surface and exterior surface thereof, wherein the ridges are spaced from one another along the longitudinal axis;

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a post integrally formed within the payload receiving chamber;
a locking ring residing within the payload receiving chamber; and
a solid section connected to the compression section;

wherein said compression section is adapted to at least partially collapse along a direction of the longitudinal axis upon firing, while remaining substantially intact, to produce a volume change.

23. (original) The sabot of claim 22, wherein the solid section includes a powder cup section.

24. (canceled)

25. (previously presented) The sabot of claim 22, wherein the sabot comprises a high-density polyethylene, low-density polyethylene, linear, high-density polyethylene, and combinations thereof.

26. (original) The sabot of claim 22, and further comprising a projectile received within the payload receiving chamber and extending forwardly from the compression section.

27. (currently amended) A firearm round having a longitudinal axis, comprising:
a sabot including a compression section defining a payload receiving chamber therein, said compression section including a plurality of fins defined by a combination of alternating internal and external ridges on an interior and exterior surface thereof, a post integrally formed within the payload receiving chamber and a solid section projecting rearwardly from the compression section, wherein the ridges are spaced from one another along the longitudinal axis;
a slug fitted to the post of the sabot;
wherein said compression section is adapted to at least partially annularly collapse along a direction of the longitudinal axis upon firing to produce a volume change.

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28. (original) The firearm round of claim 27, wherein the slug comprises a stem defining a chamber adapted to receive the post of the sabot.

29. (original) The firearm round of claim 27, wherein the slug projects forwardly from the compression section of the sabot.

30. (original) The firearm round of claim 27, wherein the post substantially fills the payload receiving chamber.

31. (original) The firearm round of claim 27, wherein the slug comprises at least about 95% by weight lead.

32. (new) The sabot of claim 2, wherein the locking ring is adjacent to a front edge of the sabot.

33. (new) The sabot of claim 1, wherein the sabot is polymeric.

34. (new) The firearm round of claim 8, wherein the sabot is axisymmetric about the longitudinal axis.

35. (new) The firearm round of claim 8, wherein the sabot has a front and a rear, the slug abutting a front edge of the front of the sabot.

36. (new) The firearm round of claim 35, wherein the compression section of the sabot further comprises a locking ring adjacent the front edge of the sabot, the locking ring abutting a stem of the slug.

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37. (new) The firearm round of claim 36, wherein the slug comprises a driving band abutting the front edge of the front of the sabot, and a nose extending forwardly from the front edge, and wherein the driving band is adapted to engage rifling of a barrel of a rifled firearm.
38. (new) The firearm round of claim 37, wherein the driving band includes a length less than about 25% of an overall diameter of the firearm round.
39. (new) The firearm round of claim 37, wherein the stem has a diameter less than a diameter of the driving band.
40. (new) The firearm round of claim 35, wherein the sabot is polymeric.
41. (new) The sabot of claim 26, wherein the sabot is axisymmetric about the longitudinal axis.
42. (new) The sabot of claim 26, wherein the sabot has a front and a rear, the projectile abutting a front edge of the front of the sabot.
43. (new) The sabot of claim 42, wherein the locking ring abuts a stem of the projectile.
44. (new) The sabot of claim 43, wherein the projectile comprises a driving band abutting the front edge of the front of the sabot, and a nose extending forwardly from the front edge, and wherein the driving band is adapted to engage rifling of a barrel of a rifled firearm
45. (new) The sabot of claim 44, wherein the driving band includes a length less than about 25% of an overall diameter of the firearm round.

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46. (new) The sabot of claim 44, wherein the stem has a diameter less than a diameter of the driving band.

47. (new) The sabot of claim 42, wherein the sabot is polymeric.

48. (new) The firearm round of claim 27, wherein the sabot is axisymmetric about the longitudinal axis.

49. (new) The firearm round of claim 27, wherein the sabot has a front and a rear, the slug abutting a front edge of the front of the sabot.

50. (new) The firearm round of claim 49, wherein the compression section of the sabot further comprises a locking ring adjacent the front edge of the sabot, the locking ring abutting a stem of the slug.

51. (new) The firearm round of claim 49, wherein the slug comprises a driving band abutting the front edge of the front of the sabot, and a nose extending forwardly from the front edge, and wherein the driving band is adapted to engage rifling of a barrel of a rifled firearm.

52. (new) The firearm round of claim 51, wherein the driving band includes a length less than about 25% of an overall diameter of the firearm round.

53. (new) The firearm round of claim 51, wherein a stem of the slug has a diameter less than a diameter of the driving band.

54. (new) The firearm round of claim 49, wherein the sabot is polymeric and the slug is metallic.